



News From

JACK DOYLE

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

For Immediate Release

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STOP DWI CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today held a news conference to commemorate the 20th anniversary of STOP DWI and to announce that AAA-Rochester and Rural Metro will again offer their "First a Friend, Then a Host" and "Rides for Revelers" holiday programs, respectively.

"Today we are pleased to celebrate 20 years of STOP DWI – bringing awareness and enforcement to our no tolerance policy for driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other illegal drugs," said Doyle. "Through education, enforcement and prosecution of this crime, we are saving lives."

STOP DWI was signed into legislation in November 1981 and went into effect January 1982. The focus of STOP DWI is to provide a comprehensive program that includes enforcement, prosecution, adjudication, treatment and prevention education.

Since the STOP DWI legislation was passed, Monroe County held the first DWI Victim Impact Panel in January 1992. The Panel is offered in addition to sentencing for all DWAI and DWI offenders. The DWI Victim Impact Panel consists of two DWI victims/survivors and one police officer who speak to an audience of DWI offenders about the drunk driving crashes in which they were injured or in which a loved one was killed. The goal of the panel is to change the behavior of the drinking driver and thus save lives.

In addition to the commemoration, AAA announced its "First a Friend, Then a Host" program promoting responsible actions and increased awareness related to driving while under the influence. Rural Metro also announced its "Rides for Revelers" program which provides one-way transportation to persons unable to drive home throughout the holiday season.

"As the holiday season begins, I ask our residents to drink responsibly and have Rural Metro, a taxi or friend drive you home if you've consumed too much alcohol," said Doyle. "Holidays are meant to spend time having fun with family and friends. Don't let your good time ruin someone else's life – forever."

The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, the New York State Broadcasters Association and the STOP DWI Association (which includes all the STOP DWI programs in New York State) will launch a statewide, holiday media campaign with the theme: "Take the lead, and take the keys."

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*STOP DWI 20 Year Anniversary
Page 2*

Doyle was joined today by local police chiefs, Monroe County's Probation Department, Monroe County District Attorney's and Sheriff's Office, former STOP DWI coordinators, Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), victim advocates, victims/survivors, AAA-Rochester and Rural Metro.

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*For further information, call:
Communications & Special Events at 428-2380
Visit us on the web: www.MonroeCounty.gov*

Editor's Note: The media is invited to attend the Victim Impact Panel at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 29, 2001 at the R.I.T. Ingle Auditorium, Building #4, Student Alumni Union. Doors close promptly at 7:00 p.m. and late arrivals are not admitted once the panel begins.